



United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
SOL-2019-00114

March 19, 2019

Via Email: 70597-76117079@requests.muckrock.com

MuckRock News
DEPT MR 70597
Attn: Beryl Lipton
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Dear Ms. Lipton,

On March 15, 2019, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor, received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. In your request, you specifically ask for:

"The following materials related to the funding, staffing, and activities of this FOIA office:

Budget materials

- For the years 2017, 2018, and 2019, all budget materials or plans applicable to offices responsible for processing and response to FOIA requests and appeals submitted to this Bureau and its offices.

Staffing orders/reports/contacts

- For the years 2017 and 2018, staffing reports and plans, including the count of employee numbers and for offices responsible for processing and responses to FOIA requests and appeals submitted to this Bureau and its offices.

- If this report is available in a form that includes the total number of hours worked for FOIA personnel, that version would be preferred.

- If reports are available for each month, that version is preferred.

-All staffing reports and plans for the year 2019

- If reports are available for each month, such a version is preferred.

- Contact information, including email addresses and phone numbers (if available), for each FOIA officer currently tasked with an open public records request

FOIA requester categories

-For the years 2017 and 2018, the designated category of each requester of a FOIA request to this office, including those assigned to the following categories:

- * commercial;
- * educational and noncommercial scientific institutions;
- * representative of news media requester;
- * all other requesters

- If this information is kept in an aggregate form including the number of requesters by fee category by year, a copy of this report will suffice to fulfill this element of the request.

FOIA fee waivers

-For the years 2017 and 2018, the number of fee waivers granted by this office and, if available, the tracking numbers for the FOIA requests to which waivers were granted

FOIA fee collection

- For the years 2017 and 2018, any report capturing the following information:

- * total estimated processing and copy fees quoted to FOIA requesters
- * total processing and copy fees collected by this Bureau from each fee category

- If this information is kept in an aggregate form, such as a FOIA log, that material would be sufficient to satisfy the bullet points “FOIA requester categories” and “FOIA fee collection” if it captures the following information:

- * FOIA tracking number
- * requester fee category
- * amount processing and copy fees associated with the request
- * the status of the requester’s payment for the request.

FOIA Policy Staff audit reports or summaries

- For the years 2017 and 2018, any and all reports of self-assessments conducted by FOIA Policy Staff.”

Your request has been assigned FOIA Tracking #SOL-2019-00114. Please cite this number in future communications with the Office of the Solicitor concerning your request. We have classified you as a “News Media” requester. As such, we may charge you for some of our

duplication costs, but we will not charge you for our search or review costs. You also are entitled to up to 100 pages of photocopies (or an equivalent volume) for free. If, after taking into consideration your fee category entitlements, our processing costs are less than \$50.00, we will not bill you because the cost of collection would be greater than the fee collected.

Given the subject of your request, we are searching within the Office of the Solicitor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lance Purvis', with a stylized, cursive script.

Lance Purvis
Office of the Solicitor, FOIA Officer